

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07

OPIC-12 SP-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-07

SS-20 STR-08 CEA-02 DRC-01 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03

PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 AGR-20 NIC-01 /222 W

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R 030915Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8202

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION GENEVA

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 1851

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PFOR BM

SUBJECT: NE WIN ADDRESSES BSPP

REF: RANGOON 1791 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. JULY 1 NE WIN SPEECH TO BSPP CENTRAL COMMITTEE OFFERED NO SOLUTIONS TO LABOR PROBLEMS BUT REFERRED TO UNDISCLOSED MEASURES TO PROCURE MORE RICE, SUGGESTING CAMPAIGN AGAINST HOARDERS MAY BE PLANNED. THE SUGGESTION OF A TOUGH POSTURE, SEEMINGLY AT VARIANCE WITH THE PRAGMATIC APPROACH IMPLICIT IN THE MEASURES ANNOUNCED THE OTHER DAY (REFTELBR IS CONVEYED ALSO BY NE WIN'S INCLUSION OF "RIGHTISTS" ALONG WITH LEFTISTS AMONG THE "SUBVERSIVES" RESPONSIBLE FOR LABOR UNREST, AND BY HIS REFUSAL TO ENDORSE BLANKET AMNESTY FOR
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IMPRISONED PROTESTERS GUILTY OF "EXCESSES". THE INFERENCE THAT

THERE IS TO BE NO RETREAT FROM DOCTRINE IS STRENGTHENED BY REPORTS THAT NE WIN IS SENDING DELEGATIONS LED BY SENIOR OFFICIALS TO NORTH KOREA, USSR, GDR, AND YUGOSLAVIA TO SEEK ADVICE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF SOCIALISM. OF COURSE, THESE OBEISANCES TO DOCTRINE MAY BE INTENDED AS PACIFIERS FOR BSPP HARD-LINERS. MEANWHILE, UNDERSCORING HIS OWN ALOOFNESS FROM CURRENT SORDID PROBLEMS, NE WIN IS PLANNING A TRIP TO EUROPE. END SUMMARY.

2. CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING OF BURMA SOCIALIST PROGRAM PARTY OPENED JULY 1 WITH SPEECH BY NE WIN (SEE FBIS 011505Z JUL 74&). NE WIN REPORTED THAT GUB HAS BEEN DISTRIBUTING 40,000 TONS OF RICE PER MONTH SINCE JANUARY AND HAS ADEQUATE STOCKS TO CONTINUE AT THIS RATE FOR REMAINDER OF 1974. NE WIN STATED THAT GUB NOT IN POSITION TO INCREASE RICE RATION BUT SAID STEPS BEING TAKEN TO RELIEVE LOW-INCOME WORKERS (OBVIOUS IMPLICATION BEING THAT THESE RELIEF MEASURES WOULD BE AT EXPENSE OF OTHER CONSUMERS). CHAIRMAN ADDED THAT GUB "TAKING STEPS TO SOLVE RICE PROBLEM ON NATIONAL SCALE", WHICH M YHT BRING MORE RICE INTO GOVERNMENT WAREHOUSES, BUT SIAD HE COULD NOHYDISCLOSE MEASURES BEING TAKEN. SINCE THIS COMMENT CAME ON THE HEELS OF TIRADE AGAINST SPECULATORS AND RICH FARMERS, MEASURES NE WIN REFERRED TO MAY INCLUDE ANOTHER CAMPAIGN OF RAIDS AND ARRESTS DIRECTED AGAINST BLACKMARKETEERS AND HOARDERS, SIMILAR TO LAST YEAR'S "OPERATION ZUZAKA."

3. NE WIN ATTEMPTED TO SLOUGH OFF SOME OF BLAME FOR RECENT LABOR TROUBLES BY CLAIMING THAT REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL INHERITED 525#3 3 049?)3. " FROM PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT IN 1962 BUT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT "SOME PROBLEMS REMAIN TOTALLY UNTOUCHED" AND THAT "WORKERS AND MANAGEMENT ARE AT LOGGERHEADS." IN APPORTIONING IMMEDIATE BLAME FOR RECENT LABOR TROUBLES, NE WIN LUMPED TOGETHER "LEFTIST AND RIGHTIST SUBVERSIVE ELEMENTS", WHOM HE CHARGED WITH COERCING AND INTIMIDATING OTHER WORKERS. NE WIN STATED THAT HE WOULD "REQUEST" AUTHORITIES CONCERNED TO RELEASE THAT CATEGORY OF WORKERS UNDER DETENTION WHO COMMITTED NO SERIOUS OFFENSES, BUT SAID HE WOULD NOT REQUEST RELEASE FOR SECOND CATEGORY WHO, EVEN THOUGH NOT SUBVERSIVES, WERE GUILTY OF "EXCESSES." NE WIN SAID HE PERSONALLY INCLINED TO FREE ALL (EXCEPT "SUBVERSIVES") BUT THAT IN INTEREST OF "RULE OF LAW" AND UNDER NEW CONSTITUTIONAL RESTRAINTS, HE COULD ONLY REQUEST LENIENCY FOR SECOND CATEGORY. ONLY SOLUTION FOR BASIC CAUSES OF RECENT TROUBLES NE WIN SUGGESTED WAS REEXAMINATION

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OF ADEQUACY OF LABOR LAWS AND EFFECTIVENESS OF WORKERS COUNCILS.

4. REPORT OF SUBSEQUENT PROCEEDINGS OF MEETING REFERRED TO PLANNED "EXTRAORDINARY PARTY CONGRESS". WE UNDERSTAND THIS CONGRESS WILL BE HELD IN AUGUST.

5. EMBASSY HAS ALSO LEARNED THAT NE WIN AND WIFE PLAN TO LEAVE

FOR ENGLAND JULY 11. AFTER WEEK OR TEN DAYS IN ENGLAND, THEY WILL GO TO GENEVA AND RETURN TO BURMA SOME TIME IN AUGUST.

6. OTHER SENIOR GUB OFFICIALS WILL ALSO BE TRAVELLING. STATE COUNCIL MEMBER BRIG. THAUNG DAN WILL LEAD PARTY DELEGATION TO NORTH KOREA IN MID-JULY, AND OTHER HIGH-LEVEL PARTY DELEGATIONS SCHEDULED TO VISIT USSR, EAST GERMANY, AND YUGOSLAVIA IN EARLY AUGUST. REPORTEDLY ONE PURPOSE OF THESE DELEGATIONS IS TO SOUND OUT OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES ON BURMESE WAY TO SOCIALISM AND TO SOLICIT SUGGESTIONS ON HOW IMPLEMENTATION OF SOCIALISM COULD BE IMPROVED IN BURMA. THESE WILL BE FIRST HIGH-LEVEL PARTY (AS OPPOSED TO GOVERNMENT) DELEGATIONS ABROAD.

7. COMMENT: BY LUMPING LEFTIST AND RIGHTIST SUBVERSIVES, NE WIN BLUNTED EARLIER STRESS ON SUPPOSED ROLE OF BCP AGENTS IN LABOR UNREST. IN BACKHANDED WAY, NE WIN ALSO CONFIRMED HARD LINE AGAINST STRIKERS. MOST DISAPPOINTING WAS HIS FAILURE TO LEND SUPPORT TO ECONOMIC STABILIZATION MEASURES ANNOUNCED JUNE 26 (REFTEL). SPEECH SHOULD THUS BE PLEASING ON SEVERAL COUNTS TO DOCTRINARIAN LEFTISTS WITHIN BSPP. COMBINED WITH PLANNED PILGRIMAGES TO SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, TONE OF SPEECH RAISES POSSIBILITY THAT JUNE 26 MEASURES MIGHT BE ONLY TEMPORARY PALLIATIVE, TO BE FOLLOWED BY REIMPOSITION OF DOCTRINARIAN SOCIALIST POLICIES. IT SEEMS AT LEAST EQUALLY PLAUSIBLE, HOWEVER, THAT SPEECH AND VISITS TO BLOC COUNTRIES ARE LARGE-LY SOPS TO LEFTISTS WITHIN BSPP AND DO NOT PRESAGE ABANDONMENT OF SLOW TREND TOWARD ECONOMIC LIBERALIZATION. WHATEVER THE CASE, BOTH LACK OF SUBSTANCE IN NE WIN SPEECH AND PLANNED TRIP TO ENGLAND AND SWITZERLAND (WHICH SOUNDS LIKE ONE OF NE WIN'S PERIODIC MEDICAL VISITS) SUGGEST THAT NE WIN IS MAINTAINING PUBLIC POSTURE OF ALOOFNESS FROM CURRENT LABOR PROBLEMS, PRESUMABLY IN HOPE OF KEEPING HIS REPUTATION UNTARNISHED.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC STABILITY, RICE, COST OF LIVING, INFLATION, PRIME MINISTER, ECONOMIC PROGRAMS, PRICES, LABOR DISPUTES, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, PARTY MEETIN GS, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974RANGOO01851
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740177-0222
From: RANGOON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740777/aaaacnut.tel
Line Count: 146
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: RANGOON 1791 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <20 FEB 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NE WIN ADDRESSES BSPP
TAGS: PINS, PFOR, BM, BSPP, (NE WIN, U)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005